one of the many techniques being practised in different parts of the world and may continue to develop in the country through private efforts. As such, there is no proposal to expand this system in Government Hospitals through-out the country.

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No comprehensive survey on the advantages and disadvantages of acupuncture has been conducted in the country.

(d) and (e) The Government of India have not recognised Acupuncture as a system of medicine in the country. This is

Participation of Foreign Companies in T.V. Station/Radio Broadcasting

1561. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign companies will be allowed to participate in T.V. Station/ Radio Broadcasting directly or indirectly;

(b) whether Government contemplate to allow private and foreign countries in this regard which may adversely influence the mind of young generation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) At present no foreign company is permitted to participate in T.V./radio broadcasting directly or indirectly from Indian soil. No decision has been taken yet on the review/change of this policy.

WHO Directive to Sell the Drugs

1562. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Health Organisation has directed that the drugs should be sold by their generic name;

(b) whether Government subscribe to this directive;

(c) if so, the reasons for pharmaceutical companies selling the same drug under their own name; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to curb this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) There is no such direction from the World Health Organisation (WHO) that drugs should be sold by their generic names. However, the WHO has recommended that the generic names of drugs listed in the WHO Essential Drug List should be used wherever available and the prescriber should also be provided with the respective proprietary names.

(b) to (d) Government by and large, purchases drugs and pharmaceuticals, by generic name for use under the National Health Programmes, and in Government hospitals. The companies use brand names registered under the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958.

देशी और विदेशी ऋण का प्रतिव्यक्ति बोझ

1563. **श्री सोमपाल:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देशी और विदेशी ऋण का प्रतिव्यक्ति बोझ कितना है;

(ख) इन ऋणों की राशि और उस पर देय ब्याज की राशि वार्षिक बजट और सकल घरेलू उत्पाद की राशि का कितना प्रतिशत है;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस ऋण की निरंतर बढ़ती राशि को भविष्य में कम करने पर विचार कर रही है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में योजना का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ड़) यदि नहीं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?